7/22/67

Dear Jonn,

Glad-sorry I was busy reminding Boston about the two lights in the belfry when you called last night-this morning.

Lil was asleep by the time I finished. She said you were writing while I was broadcasting and you gave me the nitty-gritty during the commercial.

Naturally, I am interested. However, I do want you to understand that if there is one thing I have learned it is that there is no such thing as a dependable publisher. I have found a small one who I like, whose friendship I prize, and who is honorable as man can be. He did not perform. The others are crooks or finks. Or both.

It is a rotten business, publishing. Strange, for books are so wonderful and essential. That they come from such wretched people---

So, of course, I am very interested. But I have also learned. from now on in I make no submissions on this subject. I print my own stuff and get it out. My New Orleans book would have been out at the latest in May if I had done this. I'll not make the same mistake again.

Happily, I'll taken any kind of a good deal that is offered. This means two things: front money -and in front, not like the$30,000 advance from Bell on the N.O. book that I didn't and will not get; and meaningful guarantees, not like the "best effort in all good faith" proviso of the Bell contract, which in reality has meant lousy distribution, zero promotion and a single ad. I think it is little short of fantastic that WHITEWASH has sold as it has, for it is widely unavailable and certainly hasn't been promoted at all, save by me in what little timeI could find.

Now I've got to get to Clobbersville. Last night I had it jumping, meaning it will be harder tonight to go ahead. It was rather flattering, considering that I had but a single exposure in the past in Boston, a rather quiet hour on radio. When Steve Fredericks announced Monday of Tuesday night that he was having me tonight, he got a reaction like nothing before. One lady, unknown to me, went to the studio with five full scrap books. His phone and the station were quite busy. So, we are doubleheading. Last night was the added show. Tonight is the scheduled one. I could measure his reaction: it was good. I think he felt he had a good show.